

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06238 271436Z  
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 /011 W  
-----122760 271439Z /53  
R 271030Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3135

UNCLAS JIDDA 6238

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY DOUGLAS J. BENNET, JR.FROM  
AMBASSADOR WEST

E. O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OVIP  
SUBJ: CODEL SPOUSES

REF: STATE 200869

1. WE CONCUR WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH EFFORTS OUTLINED IN  
REFTELS, AND OFFER THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:  
(A) DEPARTMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE CODEL'S VISITS AND  
MINIMIZE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE U.S. DOMESTIC POLITICAL FLACK  
RESULTING THEREFROM. IN THAT REGARD A LETTER FROM SECRETARY  
OR APPROPRIATE DEPT OFFICIAL EITHER SUGGESTING VISIT OR  
INDICATING APPROVAL AND THAT SUCH IS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE  
FOREIGN POLICY OF USG WOULD BE WELCOMED BY MOST CODELS.  
(B) INCLUSION OF WIVES IN CODEL VISITS IS I THINK MOST  
WORTHWHILE. WITH WIVES ALONG, AVERAGE CODEL WILL GIVE MORE  
SERIOUS, SOBER ATTENTION TO AFFAIRS OF STATE. FOR THAT  
REASON, WIVES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO ACCOMPANY HUSBANDS.  
BY SAME TOKEN. HUSBANDS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO ACCOMPANY  
FEMALE MEMBERS. AGAIN, LETTER OF INVITATION OR OF DEPT  
APPROVAL OF WIVES' TRAVEL WILL COUNTERACT CONSTITUENT  
SKEPTICISM OF WORHT OF CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL.  
(C) WIVES SHOULD BE INVITED TO ATTAND ALL FUNCTIONS  
WITH HUSBANDS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, AT THE SAME TIME HAVING  
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OPTION AVAILABLE OF MORE RELAXED OR DIFFERENT SCHEDULE.  
CONCUR COMPLETELY THAT CLEARANCE SHOULD BE GIVEN FOR ANY  
WIFE ATTENDING ANY BREIFING GIVEN CODEL. WE HAD INCIDENT  
WHERE WIFE WAS REQUESTED TO LEAVE BRIEFING BECAUSE OF LACK  
OF SECURITY CLEARANCES. NOT ONLY IS SUCH EMBARRASSING  
BUT IN OUR JUDGMENT FOOLISH AS WELL.  
(D) SUGGEST THAT QUESTIONNAIRE INCLUDE SPACE FOR LISTING

OF ANY FRIENDS OR CONSTITUENTS OF CODEL WHOM THEY WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT DURING VISIT. ARRANGE IF POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND GREET CONSTITUENTS. HAVE PHOTOGRAPHER AVAILABLE AND FACILITY FOR FURNISHING PHOTOGRAPHS TO CONSTITUENTS ALONG WITH POSSIBLE NEWS RELEASE AND PICTURES TO HOMETOWN PAPER IF CODEL WISHES (AND MOST OF THEM WILL). FYI: EMBASSY JIDDA HAS COMPILED FILE SHOWING U.S. BUSINESS OPERATING IN SAUDI BROKEN DOWN BY STATES AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS. THIS INFORMATION IS MOST USEFUL IN MAKING CODEL VISITS WORTHWHILE.

(E) HAVE AVAILABLE WHERE POSSIBLE SMALL GIFT OR MEMORANDUM FOR CODEL AND WIVES. SUCH NEED NOT BE ELABORATE OR EXPENSIVE, BUT SHOULD HAVE SOME IDENTITY WITH COUNTRY. WE HAVE FOUND HERE THAT COOKBOOK COMPILED BY AMERICAN LADIES OF JIDDA IS ALWAYS WELCOMED. WE ALSO HAVE USED EFFECTIVELY A PIECE OF RAIL FROM LAWRENCE'S RAILROAD, ORE FROM KING SOLOMON'S MINES AND OIL FROM LUCKY SEVEN OIL WELL.

(F) HAVE PREPARED AT CONCLUSION OF TRIP A SUMMARY OF WHAT HAPPENED. ETC. MOST CODELS WRITE WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS TO CONSTITUENTS SO SUMMARY SHOULD BE IN FORM READILY INCORPORATED INTO SUCH NEWSLETTERS. SUMMARY SHOULD THEREFORE BE READABLE WITH AS MUCH HUMAN INTEREST AS POSSIBLE. INCLUDING SUCH THINGS AS HUMOROUS EVENTS, UNUSUAL LOCAL CUSTOMS. EXOTIC DISHES CONSUMED (WITH RECIPES), ETC. THIS SHOULD BE DONE BY ESCORT OFFICER, SINCE FEW EMBASSIES UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL HAVE THE PERSONNEL TO DO IT.

(G) WIVES AND HUSBANDS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO WRITE A FRANK AND CONFIDENTIAL REPORT ON THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF THE TRIP AND THEIR EVALUATION OF TREATMENT ACCORDED AT EACH POST. (QUESTIONNAIRES SIMILAR TO THOSE USED BY MOTELS WOULD BE USEFUL.)

2. EQUALLY IMPORTANT IN MY JUDGMENT IS TO IMPRESS UPON EACH POST THE IMPORTANCE OF CODEL VISITS. CONGRESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FOREIGN POLICY HAS ESCALATED TREMENDOUSLY IN LAST FEW YEARS AND WILL NOT DIMINISH.

3. ADOPTING A TEAMWORK APPROACH RATHER THAN AN ADVERSARY OR PASSIVE RELATIONSHIP REQUIRES A LITTLE EXTRA EFFORT BUT IN MY JUDGMENT IS WELL WORTHWHILE.  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014